

# EPA samples area near IEL

**Industrial Excess Landfill Site**  
Uniontown, Ohio

December 2003

## For more information

If you have questions or comments on activities at this site, please contact one of these EPA team members:

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You may also call toll-free:  
(800) 621-8431, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

All site-related documents are available at two information repositories:

**Stark County District Library**  
Uniontown Branch  
11955 Market Ave., N.

**Lake Township Clerk's Office**  
12360 Market Ave., N.  
Hartville

Or visit EPA's Web site:

[www.epa.gov/region5/sites/iel](http://www.epa.gov/region5/sites/iel)

Soil tests this month should help U.S. Environmental Protection Agency answer questions about radioactivity readings observed with a field instrument on the site of the former Uniontown Tire store.

Site work will begin Thursday, Dec. 11. Workers will use global positioning system (GPS) technology to develop a topographic map of the radiation levels in the soil. That will help identify the best spots from which to collect soil samples. Based on this map and other data, a team of EPA scientists will collect subsurface soil samples on Dec. 16 and 17.

As many as eight samples will be taken at two different locations. The boring will go down as much as 10 feet. The samples will be sent to the National Air and Radiation Environmental Laboratory in Montgomery, Ala. Test results will be available in about a month.

The area being tested is part of a former tire and auto repair business on Cleveland Avenue. Aerial and satellite photos, some of which date back to the mid-1960s, show that the area was never part of the former Industrial Excess Landfill, although it is approximately 100 feet west of the site. Because there has been some debate over the presence of radioactive material at IEL, EPA intends to conduct a thorough investigation of this off-site area.



*Testing will be done in the approximate area marked in red. Buildings shown there no longer exist. Monitoring well nest 23 is shown in blue near the south edge of the IEL site, at the bottom of the map.*

Questions about this off-site area arose in November 2000 after an Ohio State University professor and a group of students walked through the site of the former tire shop with a Geiger counter and found some elevated levels of radioactivity.

What the students observed did not cause any health concerns, but it did prompt the Lake Township Board of Trustees to ask EPA to find out what might be causing the elevated readings. By going over the same area with technologically sophisticated measuring devices and collecting soil samples, EPA experts hope to answer the questions.

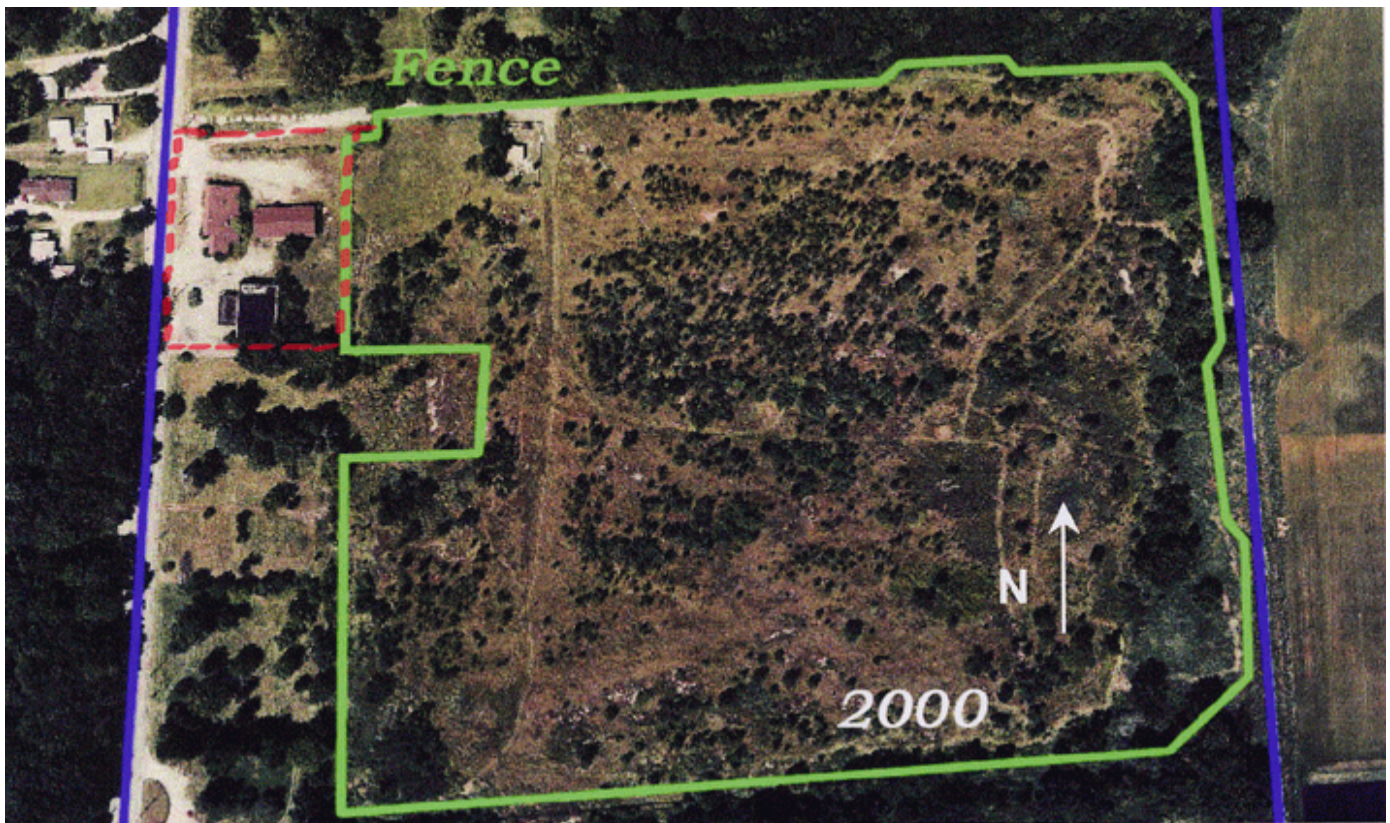
Some at EPA believe the OSU students may have run across a naturally occurring source of radioactivity. For example, the levels observed by the students are similar to those produced by the clay used to make bricks for construction.

EPA does not believe there are any risks associated with the areas to be sampled but recognizes the high level of interest in IEL.

Additional soil samples will be taken in Uniontown Community Park. EPA officials want samples from an off-site area to use as a baseline, or “background” sample. They will also take background samples from an area south of the IEL site, near monitoring well nest 23.

At the test locations, gamma radiation detectors will be lowered into the boreholes to determine the depth where readings are highest. Soil samples will then be collected from the depth where the highest radiation count readings are obtained within the borehole.

The field sampling team will wear OSHA-required protective clothing and follow a health and safety plan as they would with any sampling effort in the field.



*An aerial photo of the IEL site. The approximate area to be sampled is in the upper left, marked by red dashes. The buildings in this photo have been demolished.*